

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly substitute the following amended claims:

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1. (Twice Amended) A patient support apparatus comprising:

- a base frame,
- a patient support coupled to the base frame,
- a plurality of casters each having a sleeve, and
- a plurality of caster mounting tubes, each mounting tube including a plurality of external side walls surrounding an opening, each of the external side walls having an interior surface facing inwardly toward the opening and an exterior surface facing outwardly away from the opening, the interior surface being configured to receive in abutting relationship the sleeve of a caster, the plurality of external side walls including a generally planar first external side wall, the exterior surface of the first external side wall abutting the base frame, the mounting tube being connected to the base frame by welds located adjacent the first external side wall.

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11. (Twice Amended) A method for attaching a caster having a cylindrical sleeve to a base frame of a bed, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a caster having a cylindrical sleeve, a mounting tube having four side walls configured to provide an interior opening having a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape, and a base frame of a bed having an outer surface;

forming within the interior opening through the mounting tube an opening having a generally round cross-sectional shape to receive the cylindrical sleeve of the caster therein;

placing a first side wall of the mounting tube against the outer surface of the base frame;

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welding the mounting tube to the base frame with first and second welds  
located at opposite ends of the first side wall; and  
installing the sleeve of the caster into the interior opening of the mounting  
tube.

16. (Twice Amended) A method for attaching a caster to a base frame of a

bed, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mounting tube having four side walls configured to provide a  
substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape;

providing a base frame of a bed;

providing a caster having a sleeve including a rectangular portion having a  
substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape, a lumen having a substantially rectangular  
cross-sectional shape, and a spindle having a rectangular portion which has a substantially  
rectangular cross-sectional shape and a round portion which has a substantially round cross-  
sectional shape;

placing a first side wall of the mounting tube against the base frame;

welding the mounting tube to the base frame with first and second welds  
located at opposite ends of the first side wall;

installing the rectangular portion of the spindle into the lumen of the sleeve  
such that the round portion of the spindle extends outside of the rectangular portion of the  
sleeve; and

installing the sleeve of the caster into the interior opening of the mounting  
tube.

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